

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a communication system including a plurality of sites linked together by a packet network, a method comprising:
- 5       determining first and second multicast IP addresses to be used for a two-party call; and
- issuing commands to the packet network requesting reconfiguration of the packet network to enable a first site of the communication system to receive payload for the call via the first multicast IP address and a second site of the communication system to receive payload for the call via the second multicast IP address.
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of issuing commands comprises sending, from the first and second site, respective IGMP Join messages
- 15       identifying the first and second multicast IP addresses to one or more network devices of the packet network.
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3. The method of claim 1, comprising:
- receiving, by the first site, a message identifying a target device associated
- 20       with the second site;
- sending the message from the first site to the second multicast IP address;
- receiving, by the second site, at least a portion of the message via the second multicast IP address; and
- sending the at least a portion of the message from the second site to the
- 25       target device.
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4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
- receiving, by the second site, a message identifying a target device associated with the first site;
- 30       sending the message from the second site to the first multicast IP address;

receiving, by the first site, at least a portion of the message via the first multicast IP address; and

sending the at least a portion of the message from the first site to the target device.

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5. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of receiving, by the first site, a message identifying a target device comprises receiving a message from a source device associated with the first site.

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6. The method of claim 5, wherein one of the source device and target device moves to a different site during the call, defining a moved communication unit and an old site and a new site for the moved communication unit, the method further comprising:

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receiving, by the new site, a message identifying at least one multicast IP address associated with the call; and

issuing commands to the packet network requesting reconfiguration of the packet network to enable the new site to receive payload for the call.

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7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of receiving, by the new site, a message identifying at least one multicast IP address comprises receiving, from the moved communication unit, a message identifying the first and second multicast IP address associated with the call.

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8. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of receiving, by the new site, a message comprises:

requesting, by the new site from a call server, the first and second multicast IP addresses associated with the call; and

receiving the message from the call server identifying the first and second multicast IP addresses.

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9. In a communication system including at least a first and second communication device participating in a two-party call, a method comprising:  
sending a first payload from the first communication device to one or more network devices and addressed to a second multicast group address; and  
5 joining, by the second communication device, the second multicast group address to receive the first payload from the one or more network devices.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
sending a second payload from the second communication device to one or  
10 more network devices and addressed to a first multicast group address; and  
joining, by the first communication device, the first multicast group address to receive the second payload from the one or more network devices.

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